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(b) at what stage the construction of the road stands now?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" (a) The work is expected to be completed by the end of 1954.

" (b) The work is in progress. The estimated cost is Rs. 62,500. An expenditure of about 20,000 has been incurred up to the end of January 1954."

Construction of cement drains in Cannanore.

* 381 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum, dated 11th September 1953, signed by 219 residents of camp Bazaar West and East wards of Cannanore Municipality requesting the Government to construct cement drains and linking the same with Chalat canal so as to empty whole sullage from Arat Vayal into it; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) A report has been called for from the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department (General and Buildings). On receipt of his report, the matter will be examined and suitable action taken."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Is it a fact that the Cannanore Municipal Council passed a Resolution sanctioning Rs. 30,000 for constructing these drains, that after this, the Government sent an order stating that they were going to take up a permanent drainage scheme in that regard, that on account of the Government Order, the scheme was dropped and that the Government did not do anything afterwards? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Commissioner's Report has been sent to the Engineer for his remarks."

Collection of full sales tax from the East Asiatic Company, Limited, Madras.

* 382 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state the action taken by the Government to see that the East Asiatic Company, Limited, Madras, does not deliberately underquote the price of groundnut oil in their invoices made out in favour of the parent firm at Copenhagen and that full sales tax is collected from them?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The allegation is under investigation by the Government of India. Sales tax has been collected only on the amount charged in the bills or invoices."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know whether any officer of the Sales Taxes Department has ever verified the price of the

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groundnut in the invoices of the company and the price at which it is sold in the open market either by this company or by other dealers? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Sales tax is charged only on the amount shown in the bills and invoices. As regards the other question, I have already said that it is under consideration."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, இந்தக் கம்பெனியார் மார்க்கெட் விலையைக் காட்டிலும் குறைந்த விலைக்கு invoice போடுகிறார்கள் என்ற தகவல் சென்னை அரசாங்கத்தின் கவனத்திற்கு வந்ததா ? வந்திருந்தால், அதன் மீது சர்க்கார் என்ன நடவடிக்கை எடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள் ? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" We go only by the amount shown in the bills and invoices. As regards the other question that the price is underquoted and sold in order to send away the capital from here, I have already said that the matter is under investigation by the Central Government."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Are the Government aware of the fact that the company under reference is selling groundnut oil to other dealers in the City of Madras, invoicing it at a higher price, and that when it sells it to its parent company in Copenhagen, it puts it at a lower price with a view to avoid the payment of sales tax? This practice has been going on in that company for the last three years. The Labour Unions and the employees have brought these matters to our notice. I presented a memorial in this connexion to the previous Minister in charge of sales tax, namely, Sri S. B. P. Pattabhi Rama Rao. But no action has been taken on it in spite of repeated reminders from me."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Action has to be taken not from this end. It has to be taken by the Central Government. As for underquoting of the price, we can't help it. We go only by the amount shown in the bills and invoices."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, my question has not been answered."

MR. SPEAKER :—" What can the Chair do? "

11 a.m. SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Please hear me, Sir. I am concerned with the sales tax to be collected by the Government of Madras. The Company has been cheating the Government. What action have the Government of Madras taken to deal with the Company effectively and to collect more sales tax from the Company? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" As I said, the Government go by the bills and invoices. If the hon. Member has got some inside information, he may pass it on to me. I shall see what I can do."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I want to finish the rest of the questions in five minutes."